

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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comprising:

1. A directory for cataloging information on the Internet, the directory comprising:
 - a first conduit between the directory and a first site;
 - a second conduit between the directory and a second site;
 - a receiver function to accept:
 - a first local catalog of directory information from the first site and
 - a second local content catalog of directory information from the second site; and
 - a global catalog of directory information that comprises the first local catalog and the second local catalog.
2. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the first site and second site respectively reports the first local catalog and second local catalog to the receiver function according to a predetermined schedule.
3. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein the first conduit and the second conduit each comprise the Internet.
4. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second local catalogs provide location information for a plurality of content objects.
5. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 4, wherein the location information comprises at least two of a path, a file name, and an address.
6. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, further comprising
 - a first timer; and
 - a second timer, wherein:
 - the first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the first site fails to respond before the first timer expires, and

the second local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the second site fails to respond before the second timer expires.

7. The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one of a search web page and a directory web page that is coupled to the global catalog.

8. A directory for cataloging information on the Internet, the directory comprising:

a plurality of connects to a plurality of sites, wherein:

there is at least one connection per site, and

at least one of the plurality of connections is active at a time;

a receiver to accept a plurality of local catalogs of directory information from the plurality of sites; and

a global catalog of directory information that comprises the plurality of local catalogs.

9. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of sites periodically report their respective local catalog to the receiver.

10. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein at least one of the plurality of connections comprise the Internet.

11. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of local catalogs provide location information for a plurality of content objects.

12. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 11, wherein the location information comprises at least two of a path, a file name, and an address.

13. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, further comprising

a first timer; and

a second timer, wherein:

5 a first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if a first site
6 fails to respond before the first timer expires, and
7 a second local catalog is removed from the global catalog if a
8 second site fails to respond before the second timer expires.

1 14. The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited
2 in claim 8, further comprising at least one of a search web page and a directory web page
3 that is coupled to the global catalog.

1 15. A directory system for cataloging information on a packet switched
2 network, the directory system including:

3 a first site comprising first directory information;

4 a second site comprising second directory information; and

5 a third site comprising third directory information, wherein:

6 the first directory information is sent over the packet switched
7 network to the third site,

8 the second directory information is sent over the packet switched
9 network to the third site, and

10 the first directory information and second directory information is a subset
11 of the third directory information.

1 16. The directory system for cataloging information on the packet
2 switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the first site and second site
3 respectively reports the first directory information and second directory information to the
4 third site periodically.

1 17. The directory system for cataloging information on the packet
2 switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein the packet switched comprises the
3 Internet.

1 18. The directory system for cataloging information on the packet
2 switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second directory
3 information provides location information for a plurality of content objects.

